

Need for construction of sea-wall along the East coast stretch from Ganjam to Balasore in Odisha-laid

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI (JAGATSINGHPUR): Sagarmala Project, Government's flagship programme to develop and modernise ports and coastal highways, has been substantially contributing to the growth of Country's GDP. A global study has predicted that more than 200 kms of Odisha's coastline will face erosion by 2050 due to a significant decline in the flow of sediments and water volume in seven major rivers of Odisha. If this trend continues, six major coastal districts of Odisha are going to face problems of erosion. About 45 % of the 485 kms coastline will face erosion and 55 % may witness accretion by 2050. Hence, there is an urgent need for construction of sea wall along the East Coast stretch in Odisha from districts Ganjam to Balasore, which will not only protect the lives and livelihood of millions of fishing and other communities, but also protect the infrastructure based under Sagarmala Project. Further, the loss of livelihoods demands long-term climate resilient adoption strategies by constructing sea wall in the coastal stretch of Odisha. Also, for all round development of industrial clusters to protect the agriculture base of the coastal inhabitants and to develop the tourist spots along the coastal towns, construction of sea wall is the way forward. It will also act as convenient communication by reducing the distance from Ganjam to Balasore.